

Our plan to build back better in Bristol

The Conservative Manifesto for the City of
Bristol on 6 May 2021



A personal message from the Conservative Group Leader

Dear Resident

The last year has been challenging and life has been harder than any of us thought it would be last January. Sadly people have lost their lives and livelihoods. Thankfully though hope is on the horizon. The Government's vaccine programme has been a national and international success with tens of thousands of Bristolians having already had the vaccine - with more receiving their jabs every day.

The pandemic saw many plans altered, including the postponement of last years elections. This has meant we have had to endure under another 12 months of ineffective Labour administration of this great City.

We now have a chance to change that by building back better - a better Bristol for all Bristolians.

One in which we have the opportunity to scrap the entire position of Mayor, to make the leadership of this City more accountable to the public. **New leadership that doesn't waste tax payers money, that delivers on the basics that matter to our residents, prioritises funding for our communities and doesn't ignore the suburbs.**

Your vote is an opportunity for change this May - voting for Councillors, City Mayor, West of England Mayor and Police & Crime Commissioner!

You can make a difference - I urge you to do so. Let's build back better!

Mark Weston



Cllr Mark Weston

Conservative Group Leader, Bristol City Council

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Vote Samuel Williams for WECA Mayor

- Delivering a transport network that connects you to the things that are most important
- Providing skills, training and apprenticeship opportunities so you can get the jobs you want and employers get the skills they need
- Strengthening our business sector and boosting the recovery of local enterprise

SECURING OUR RECOVERY

On Thursday 6th May you have the chance to vote for a brighter future for Bristol, by voting for me, Samuel Williams, to be the next Mayor of the West of England.

The Mayor co-ordinates investment across the region, and is responsible for allocating hundreds of millions of pounds of central Government money to deliver better transport, training, housing and investment in jobs and the economy.

Bristol plays a vital role in our region: a centre of creativity, research, and a location famous around the world. So the West of England needs a Bristol which is thriving,

and Bristol needs a region which works together to improve our transport links and provides the jobs, housing and training opportunities we need.

As a local businessman and charity leader, I'm passionate about energising our region to increase opportunities and quality of life for all, and Bristol is key to that vision.



Delivering our pledges to you

Your local Conservatives have worked tirelessly to support our communities and protect local services. With your support we will continue to do so.



What we've achieved together...

1 Stopped the Mayor from closing our local libraries

The Mayor proposed to close the majority of the City's libraries. By working with local residents we mounted a ferocious campaign and succeeded in keeping them open.

3 Over £700m in Covid support for the City

We have been raising concerns with Government to secure support for businesses and residents. Over £700m has been provided to the City so far.

5 Originally proposed a Housing Company for Bristol

Bristol Conservatives were the first to propose a housing company to deliver affordable housing for local residents. Including securing £9m investment for the project.

2 Worked with the West of England Mayor to secure more transport funding

By working with the WECA Mayor we secured tens of millions of pounds in additional transport investment for the City region.

4 Secured money to invest in community schemes

Conservative Councillors have helped secure funding for local road, park and community schemes across Bristol.

6 Argued for greater accountability in City Hall.

Conservatives have led the charge calling for the Mayor to publish the details on the tens of millions he has wasted on vanity projects.

And what we'll do next...

1 Fix our broken transport system

We will improve local bus services, invest in our railway network, improve cycling & walking provision whilst still recognising that car travel remains important for many.

3 Build more affordable housing for Bristolians

Under the current Labour leadership, Bristol is lagging behind neighbouring authorities when it comes to providing affordable homes. This has to change!

5 Protecting our green environment

Lockdown has shown us all the importance of local green spaces. We will invest in our parks and play areas so that everyone has access to high quality open space

2 Work to make our communities safer for all

We want people to be safe and feel safe where ever they live. We will work with the Police Commissioner to make this happen and ensure safer streets across Bristol

4 Protecting & Investing in local facilities

We will always fight to preserve our much-needed local amenities so that local people have access to the facilities they need such as public toilets.

6 Hold a referendum to scrap the Mayor

The City Mayor has proven to be a waste of vital resources with no checks on their authority once elected. It's time to scrap the City Mayor!

More accountable leadership - SCRAP THE CITY MAYOR

A referendum to scrap the Mayor

- Too much power is concentrated in one persons hands leading to constant mistakes that are damaging this City.
- The Bristol Energy Debacle, the spiralling costs of the Colston Hall refurb, the congestion charge about to cut our City in two!
- We will hold a referendum to let Bristolians decide whether to stick with the Mayor or go back to the Cabinet model.

In 2012 Bristol voted to have a Mayor—the only city in the country that did so.

It was hoped that this change would provide better leadership and stability.

It hasn't.

Instead the City has reeled from one crisis to another. £50m wasted on the energy company, housing targets missed, the Colston Hall refurbishment to cost another £50m, congestion charging about to dissect our City, libraries threatened with closure, parking charges with parks...
... the list goes on and on.

Under the old administration no leadership would have survived these debacles and yet time and again the citizens remain powerless to stop him.

We want to change this. We will hold a referendum to scrap the Mayor and bring accountability back to the Council House rather than this form of unaccountable dictatorship.

Voting for a Conservative Council and a Conservative Mayor ensures your democratic right to have a say on whether power is returned to the people or remains in the hands of an error prone Mayor answerable to no one.

Enough is enough.

Vote Conservative on 6th May 2021.

Vote Alastair Watson for Mayor

AN EXPERIENCED LEADER WHO WILL LISTEN TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

Alastair is an experienced businessman and former Lord Mayor of Bristol who wants to bring back competent leadership to our great city. He argued passionately when he was a Bristol City councillor against the setting up of the Bristol Energy Company. He would not spend tens of millions of pounds of your money on highly risky ventures. Being Mayor should not be an ego trip.

Alastair says, "I want to listen to residents and work on the issues that really matter to local residents – focusing on housing, transport, jobs, education and quality of life. However, having two Mayors only confuses matters and undermines the very thing that Bristol needs – a clear vision that will support families across the City."



Alastair Watson is standing to be the last City Mayor



Better transport for Bristol

For too long the Council has failed to get a grip on the City's transport problems bouncing from one pipe dream to another. Labour's £4bn underground proposal just isn't feasible - by working with neighbouring authorities and the Regional Mayor our plans are:

- We support clean air for Bristol but believe that the current proposals are flawed. We will lobby the Government to change the Clean Air Zone to remove the Portway from the plans - if these go ahead then it will cut our City in two.
- Work with neighbouring Councils to deliver on our rail ambitions for the Henbury Loop and Portishead lines.
- Continue to develop our rail plans with new stations at Horfield and St Anne's.
- Work in partnership with bus companies to expand frequency and services around the City not just to the City Centre.
- Develop a ring of park and ride facilities around the City to capture commuters further out and reduce traffic on our roads.
- Look to improve cycling provision with a series of targeted interventions that improve safety and encourage use - such as over the Downs.
- Speed up roadworks construction times – 7 days a week/24 hour working where appropriate with closer coordination between Highways Agency and Bristol City Council.
- Clampdown on pavement parking. Where parking prevents access then fines will be levied.

More homes, better housing

The Mayor was elected on a promise to build more affordable housing. We were told it would be 800 a year. He has failed.

He managed little more than 300.

Conservative led South Gloucestershire Council is building nearly twice this.

He has over promised and under delivered. We can do better!

- Work in partnership with housing developers to bring forward developments that provide affordable housing.
- Use the Council's housing company to deliver the next generation of Council House construction.
- Ensure that developments also provide money for vital community infrastructure in the area they are built rather than the City Centre.
- Use the Council's powers to move van dwellers to permanent sites rather than allow informal sites to develop on local roads.
- Introduce licensing for all 'houses of multiple occupancy' across the city not just in certain areas.
- Stop the over-development of some of our key sites such as the Cumberland Basin and Hengrove Park. We want to develop the City working with, not against, local communities.
- We will listen to communities on how to make neighbourhoods safer for all.





Protecting & investing in local facilities

Time and again local services and facilities have been under threat from the Mayor. Libraries have been threatened, toilets closed and in some cases funding to children centres cut. This isn't how the City should be run.

- We pledge to never close a local library. Instead we will invest in the service to expand on the access card schemes already in operation in some libraries.
- We will invest in our secondary shopping centres across the City so more people have access to high quality retail areas to encourage local shopping.
- We oppose plans to close the Jubilee Swimming Pool in SE Bristol. This is a vital community asset and should remain open!
- We want Bristol to become a 'heart friendly city' with widespread availability of defibrillator and community training on how to use them.
- We will use developer contributions to kick start a widespread park improvement programme across the City so residents can access high quality open space.
- We want to improve public toilet provision across the city and reverse the Mayor's cuts to these much needed facilities.
- We will fairly distribute money across the City so communities have a real chance to improve their area rather than fighting over funding scraps.

Mark Shelford for Police Commissioner

- **Reassuring Residents:** I will reassure residents by increasing visible policing of our streets.
- **Fighting Crime, not more Admin:** The Commissioner's focus should be fighting crime, not administration.
- **Boosting Morale & Officer Support:** Police officers deserve a Commissioner who supports them in their vital duties.

SUPPORTING SAFER COMMUNITIES

The role of Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset is a vital one if we are to drive down crime and make our streets safer. It's a big job. It matters who does it.

Having been a member of the region's Police and Crime Panel, I know what Bristol needs: more visible policing, with much more focus on reducing anti-social behaviour, violence and drugs crime on our streets. Burglary and car theft are increasing, and online fraud. We need to see better trained and equipped frontline officers freed up to prevent these crimes,

and able to do more to support victims.

I have served as an army officer with diverse police forces around the world. I want to use my skills and experience to serve all our communities, and make Bristol and Avon & Somerset a safer place to live.



Mark Shelford for Police Commissioner



Conservatives fighting to preserve the last working farm in Bristol

Protecting our environment

During the recent lockdowns we have all come to value our local green spaces and environment more and more. It is vital that more is done to preserve and improve our local amenity such as the Western Slopes in South Bristol.

- We will continue to work towards carbon neutrality across Bristol. Balancing the needs of our economy whilst protecting the environment.
- We will invest in a fresh anti-litter campaign across Bristol with more community resources, strategically located bins and more litter police to fine those that pollute our city.
- We will cut the cost of bulky waste collection for households in an effort to cut fly tipping.
- We will protect our green belt and oppose attempts to fence off local green spaces.
- We will develop a green bond scheme to invest in renewable energy schemes in our communities.
- We will not introduce parking charges at our City Estates - Blaise Castle & Oldbury Court. We do not support the idea of 'pay to play'.
- We will target graffiti vandalism and tagging which is blighting certain areas of Bristol.
- Expanding allotment provision across the City. We know that many people want the opportunity to grow their own food and we want to help them do so.

A fair deal for families & children

The last 12 months have been hard on families. We will do everything we can to make life that little bit easier as we look to build back better.

- We will invest in sports provision across Bristol. Healthier life styles need to be supported and encouraged in light of the Covid pandemic.
- Play areas will be improved so that our children can access quality play equipment in their neighbourhoods.
- We will invest in additional support for children with special educational needs - the mayor has let them down badly and we need to now rebuild that trust with their families.
- We will deliver a new secondary school in Temple Quarter by working with parents and lobbying the Department for Education. We cannot afford another Council that promises action and delivers nothing.
- We will work with businesses to kick start work experience placements for young people exploring career options.
- We will work with charity and community groups to tackle isolation amongst the elderly. After the last year we have all had enough of being alone.
- We are pledged to keep our children's centres open and will work to reopen any that have been forced to close.



We will invest in our play areas and sports provision

The choice at this election



In this election your choice is clear. You can either have another term of a Labour Mayor and Labour Councillors wasting taxpayers money and ignoring communities right across Bristol - or you can vote for the Conservatives. We never forget that we work for YOU and not the Council!

Conservatives	Labour
We will act responsibly with your money. We will not waste tens of millions on vanity projects and pipe dreams.	£50million wasted on the Bristol energy debacle after years of warnings. They continually threw good money after bad.
We will invest in local parks and play areas so that all residents can enjoy the outdoors in safety.	Colston Hall (Beacon Project) costs have soared with the taxpayer now on the hook for nearly £60m. Labour have lost control.
We will improve the standard of education in our City - lobbying for additional schools and investing in special educational needs.	Special Educational Needs disaster across the City. The Court ruled against the Council and condemned their repeated failings.
We believe in getting the basics right - fixing potholes, repairing swings, cleaning up our streets rather than squandering money we don't have.	Huge payoffs for former Council Chief Executives when that money is urgently needed on the front line.
We will generate more housing for Bristol by adopting best practice and working in partnership with developers to deliver the next generation of affordable homes.	Housing targets missed! In fact Conservative run South Gloucestershire is building nearly twice as many affordable homes as Bristol.
We will lobby the Government to review the Clean Air Zone - we do not believe that the Portway and Cumberland Basin should be included	Clean Air Zone for Bristol expanded to include the Portway - this cuts the City in two and could push HGVs onto local roads.
We will cut the cost of the Mayor's office and hold a referendum so that you can decide whether we as a City should have a Mayor or not.	The spiralling cost of the Mayor's office at a time when he is cutting front line staff. These priorities just aren't in the interests of the City.
We believe that we should be investing in our communities. There are vital projects like road improvements that have been ignored. We will distribute money more evenly across the city.	Huge cuts to community funding when Neighbourhood Partnerships were slashed. Money that was vitally needed.
We will work with other neighbouring authorities to deliver the transport, housing, skills and jobs that we need to thrive as a region.	Damaged relations with neighbouring authorities and potentially jeopardises future investment — surely enough is enough!

